

Jude Currivan: How an emergent wholeworld-view of unified reality can lead to transformational change and ethical behavior

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Abstract

Dr Jude Currivan has conducted extensive research on the cosmological foundations of our Universe, the evolutionary process of life and the fundamental nature of reality, which are now being applied around the world in fields of business, leadership, education, governance, and science. As a member of the Evolutionary Leaders Circle (www.evolutionaryleaders.net) and having also co-founded WholeWorld-View (www.wholeworld-view.org) to share the emergent message of a unified reality, one of the most striking features of this work is a unitive narrative for exploring the convergence of science and spirituality in ways that can inspire and empower conscious evolution and transformational societal change through ethical leadership behavior.

How does this wholeworld-view and the unitive narrative support conscious and ethical leadership, especially in the context of our sustainability crisis and the need for new regenerative business models?

Our worldviews, mindsets and cultures underpin and frame the narratives we share, our values, the choices we make and our consequential behaviors. In an inherent feedback loop, our behaviors and the experiences that accrue, can in turn moderate our subsequent choices, values, mind sets and worldviews and reshape our narratives.

Based on a scientific paradigm and world view of materialism and separation that has prevailed until now, our secular cultures have accordingly embodied its consequential narrative, values and behaviors. As such, our planetary home, which I refer to as Gaia - as did the Ancient Greeks who named her as the Earth goddess - and the natural abundance she sustains, have been perceived as being essentially mechanistic and separate from humans, and as resources to be exploited. This paradigm also views our entire universe as being without innate meaning or evolutionary purpose.

The devastating global impact of such a worldview has dramatically accelerated in the last 75 years and has brought us near a catastrophically unsustainable threshold; with existential threats to the future of our species and appalling damage to Gaia's environments and ecosystems.

Albert Einstein once famously said that: we cannot solve a problem from the same mindset that caused it. This understanding is central to whether and if so, how, we can change our world view and associated mind set and accordingly amend our values and transform our behaviors.

Now, however, the prevalent worldview of materialist separation is being debunked as scientific breakthroughs are revealing the unified nature of reality. This emergent wholeworld-view is now aligning with universal wisdom and spiritually-based teachings, to enable a new and unitive narrative of the essential unity of the world to emerge.

Its most central tenet is that mind and consciousness are not something we have but what we and the whole world fundamentally are. The realization of this inherent and universal unity and its unitive narrative, vitally recognizes our interbeing and belonging with the whole community of Gaia, and with the entire Universe and its innate consciousness, meaning, purpose and evolutionary flow.

What do you consider to be universal values for ethical behaviors?

The emergent understanding of a conscious and evolutionary Universe which exists and evolves in its entirety as a unified entity, invites a range of universal values and ethical behaviors that are love-based and inclusive.

These are the same values that the most profound of spiritually-based traditions teach and what indigenous wisdom and communal behaviors are based on. They call for us to recognize that we are innately part of a universal web of life, rather than separate from it.

These include reverence for all life. This embraces, honors and respects, not only people and other biological organisms, but those who Native American teachings refer to as 'all our relations', including the body of Gaia, our Sun and Moon, our ancestral lineages and spiritual and unseen realms.

Another is a deep and felt sense of what is fair and just, that sociologists appreciate is embodied in us and expressed from early childhood. While young, we deeply care about such authenticity and truth. Yet our societies, when based on a premise of separation, teach and show us otherwise.

Reciprocity is another value I consider to be vital for ethical behavior, which the Q'ero people of Peru call *ayni*, ensuring the mutuality and balance of give and take. And, in taking no more than what fulfils a need, and especially when that is provided by Gaia, to reciprocate with gratitude.

All of these values are based on an experienced kinship and participation in a world where there is differentiation and diversity but which is essentially whole and its parts inseparable.

Perhaps the most fundamental value, and vital for ethical behavior, is founded on this recognition. The so-named 'golden rule'; to treat others – and our planetary home Gaia – as we would wish to be treated ourselves, is a value that lies at the heart of the core teachings of all major religions and spiritual traditions.

Can you please summarize the fundamental aspects of this emergent perspective of an essentially living Universe that exists and evolves as a unified reality?

The key aspects of the cosmology of a conscious and evolutionary Universe, based on recent scientific breakthroughs and evidence, are, firstly, that its appearance of energy and matter, space and time, arises from deeper non-physical realms of intelligent causation. They do so as digitized and vitally, meaningful, in-formation, pixelated at the most minute scale of existence. And with universally in-formed reality manifesting holographically; with innate wholeness of our Universe expressed in nested and relational complexity of its differentiated and diverse parts.

The growing evidence is revealing that foundationally, mind and consciousness are not something we have but instead, what we and the whole world really are. To paraphrase early-twentieth century philosopher Sir James Jeans: Our Universe is rather a great thought of cosmic mind, rather than a great thing.

Beginning, 13.8 billion years ago, not in the implied chaos of a big bang but as an incredibly ordered and exquisitely fine-tuned first moment of an ongoing big breath, the increasingly compelling evidence is showing that our Universe meaningfully and purposefully exists TO evolve. Indeed from its initial simplicity, it embeds an innate impulse to evolve to complexity and diversity, ever greater levels of individuated and collective self-expression, self-awareness and conscious interdependence.

On a global scale, Gaia's continuing emergence is embodied in collaborative and synergistic relationships and dynamic coevolutionary partnerships throughout the entire 'gaiasphere' of

her rocks, waters, atmosphere and biosphere. And where, now, the conscious evolution of humanity may be realized as an integral part of Gaia's own evolutionary progress and purpose.

What are the scientific discoveries that validate this wholeworld-view?

While I describe the discoveries and evidence in much more detail in my two recent books *The Cosmic Hologram: In-formation at the Center of Creation* and *The Story of Gaia: the Big Breath and the Evolutionary Journey of our Conscious Planet*, here are some key findings.

Physicists have known for many years that while apparently solid, when we drill down to smaller and smaller scales, the physical world is extremely ephemeral. A hydrogen atom, for example is estimated to be around 99.999999999999%, emptiness.

In recent years the significance of information has come to be progressively recognized. In 2012 an experiment and others since, have demonstrated that digital information comprised of 0s and 1s is innately physical. Deleting one digitized bit, releases actual physical heat and in line with theoretical predictions.

Many fields of research from cosmology to atomic physics are showing that universally, such digitized information combines meaningfully as 'instructions' that we know as the laws of physics and to in-form – give form to - the manifested Universe in its entirety. Thus, meaningful in-formation aggregates as quantized energy and matter at all scales; enabling our Universe to exist. And does so in a complementary way as space and time; enabling, as space expands and time flows forward from past to present and to future, for our Universe to embody ever great levels of in-formed experience and evolutionary emergence.

In 2018, researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the USA were also able to demonstrate that our Universe is nonlocally unified, as is theoretically required for quantum behavior at its smallest scales. They did so in a process known as entanglement, simultaneously melding photons of light in their laboratory with starlight from 600 light years away and light from a powerful galactic core, called a quasar, 12.2 billion light years away – so whose light would have originated there 12.2 billion years ago.

Cosmologists, from studying the attributes of black holes, are also coming to the view that our Universe is holographically manifested, with its entire three-dimensional appearance as a projection of such digitized in-formation held on its two-dimensional space-time boundary, and pixelated at the minute Planck scale.

Its measure is named after Max Planck, who shared the view of Albert Einstein and other scientific pioneers that universal consciousness is indeed primary to the manifestation of reality; a perception that the Vedic sages of Ancient India also espoused.

In 2017, researchers from five universities in the UK, Italy and Canada, found the signature of our holographic Universe, in the patterns of tiny temperature fluctuations in the so-named cosmic microwave background, the relic radiation from an early epoch of the Universe and which fills the whole of space.

This wholeworld-view of an in-formed and holographically manifested Universe - a cosmic hologram - is showing itself through universal patterns and processes; from cosmology, physics and chemistry, to biology, complex systems and throughout the 'natural' world, and in collective human systems and behaviors. Such relational patterns, known as fractals, arise from non-physical causative 'attractors' of dynamically aggregated in-formation that are holographically projected as our manifest Universe.

Such fractal relationships have been discovered from the scale of individual atoms to our Solar System and to vast, galactic clusters. On our planetary level, examples include geological tectonic plates; geographical features such as coastlines and river drainage systems; meteorological expressions in clouds and lightning strikes, chemical phase transitions – and in neuroscience, the communication processes of human brains.

Why do you feel this message, and the unitive narrative it offers, is important for conscious business?

The understanding of a conscious, living and evolving Universe imbued with inherent meaning and evolutionary purpose, which is thus embodied by Gaia and ourselves too – as its micro-cosmic co-creators – I believe can transform and heal our dismembered world view and collective mind set from separation and the suffering and trauma it has engendered, to unity expressed in diversity, inclusion and essential belonging. As we re-member that we are inseparable from each other, Gaia and the wider Cosmos – our values, our choices and how we behave in our lives, both personally, in our communal working lives and throughout our societies can also change in (r)evolutionary ways.

Increasing evidence is further supporting such an understanding, revealing characteristic fractal patterns through our collective behaviors. They have shown up in studies of the movements of stock market prices by the 'father of fractals' mathematician Benoit

Mandelbrot; internet traffic, website links and data routes; internet communications and web browsing, and geographical and time-based usage of mobile phones.

Linking such 'natural' and 'human' patterns even further, in 2015, astrophysicists from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, tracked how, by looking at their respective densities of people and stars, cities grow in the same in-formational ways that galaxies form. Researchers have even uncovered associated relationships, known as power laws, linking the relative frequencies and destructive powers of earthquakes with the occurrences and scales of deaths from human conflicts.

Whereas a world view and mind set of separation renders such conflicts, inequalities and injustices as apparently rational norms, what the evidence is clearly and powerfully showing is that if we can change our world view and evolve our mind set from our unsustainable state to one that re-members the unified nature of reality instead of its illusion of separation, we can re-establish the universal and love-based values that we innately share and link up and lift up together to transform our world.

It is here that I believe 'conscious' business has such a vital role to play.

In their work on so-named Spiral Dynamics, Don Beck and Christopher Cowan, expanding on research by Clare Graves, characterize progressive levels of human awareness by various attributes. They see a level, now emerging, as harmonizing empowered, co-creative collaborations of individuals focused on collective well-being and for the good of the whole. In Re-inventing Organizations Frederic Laloux also describes three foundational attributes of organizations exemplifying this level of awareness he denotes as teal and which others are characterizing as 'conscious' businesses.

The leaders of such conscious businesses have and enact such a unitive perspective that sees the profound inter-connectedness and ultimate wholeness of the world and behave accordingly. Such perception guides its embodiment in an evolutionary purpose in how they operate and their sense of direction. This naturally then supports their embedding distributed, holarchically nested and collective intelligence, guidance and optimized processes from such inner awareness to their outer manifestation.

Why did you and your colleagues of the Evolutionary Leaders circle craft a unitive narrative to distil this message and its implications, and can you share some of its key features?

In the Summer of 2021, a group of us convened what our community calls a synergy circle. The aim of such circles, with members from within our own community and often through linking up with other thought leaders all of whom have had extensive experience and expertise of seeking to bring about transformational change in the world, is to synergize our efforts with action-based progress.

In this instance, our circle invited participation with others, most of whom have decades of working with the United Nations (UN), with our emphasis on how to more effectively serve the implementation of the 17 interlinked Sustainable Development Goals established by the UN in 2015. Signed off by 193 countries, an action-based program of implementation termed Agenda 2030, was also agreed, intending to substantially achieve the SDGs by the end of this decade.

While until 2020, there had been some progress regarding their enactment, the last two years has seen even that limited advancement effectively stalled. And with increasingly urgent and radical action needed, my colleagues in our so-named SDG thought leaders circle (www.sdgthoughtleaderscircle.org) came together to discuss what we considered to be standing in the way of progress and how we might synergize our efforts to support the speed up and scale up their implementation.

It soon became clear that we had a broad consensus to what we feel is the fundamental issue; the lack of a wholistic underpinning and framing that explicitly addresses and effectively transcends the ‘silo’ approaches that limits the SDGs’ advance. A unitive narrative, which we then drafted, seeks to do this by basing itself on the science-based and integral wholeworld-view we’ve been sharing here, to underpin, frame and point the way forward. While initially focusing on the SDGs, its foundational narrative) can be applied with explicit and unitive design principles and methodologies to all approaches to societal change and at all scales.

How does the evolutionary journey of our entire Universe offer insights and guidance for evolutionary business models?

From its initial moment 13.8 billion years ago, our entire Universe has embodied collaborative relationships to evolve complexity. From the innate simplicity of the first hydrogen atoms, to their alchemical transfusion to heavier elements in stellar interiors, to the diffusion of such elemental abundance into inter-stellar gas and dust clouds, where the interior of such clouds, guided by vast magnetic fields, and also replete with ice and bathed by ultra-violet light became cosmic wombs for greater complexity to be nurtured.

Five and a half billion years ago such a cloud in our Milky Way galaxy gathered a plethora of emergent potential, enabling pre-biotic organic molecules to form there. The shock waves from a nearby supernova explosion then precisely triggered the gravitational collapse of the cloud into a proto-planetary system – ours.

This universal evolutionary journey, and subsequently continued in Gaia's own emergence is founded on a number of key principles.

First, our Universe is as simple as it can be – but no simpler – to enable its evolutionary impulse and purpose to be achieved.

Second, that while its entire energy-matter is conserved and overall balanced to zero throughout its lifecycle, all its subsystems from atoms upwards use the *minimum* energy possible to manifest and sustain themselves.

Third, our Universe is fundamentally coherent – existing and evolving as a whole and embodying a universal evolutionary purpose.

And fourth, that while healthy competition is an attribute of universal relationships, it is always through cooperation that evolutionary complexity progresses.

Can you please elaborate on some of the key principles of Gaia's own evolutionary processes that can further be applied to emergent and regenerative business models?

As our planetary mother, Gaia herself has profound wisdom that's valuable for all of us as we seek to transform our conscious organizations and societies from effectively a 'death' economy to one based on life.

Sometimes adopting such principles is termed biomimicry. As I describe in *The Story of Gaia*,

“our planetary home only uses the energy needed for all she achieves. She fits form to function with underlying simplicity, exquisite beauty, and intricate precision. She recycles everything with no waste. She shares and in-forms her skills locally and globally. She embodies collaboration throughout her biosphere, appreciating healthy competition and encouraging holarchic cooperation and evolutionary purpose. She exults in diversity and knows it to imbue resilience and collective genius. And she exists, evolves, and thrives within the wholistic limits and emergent opportunities of her planetary gaiasphere. And she's been doing so for over four billion years”.

You consider that conscious evolution also requires integral leadership. What do you mean by this?

A wholeworld-view of unified reality and a unitive narrative invites us to inwardly hear the wisdom of our hearts and thus guides us to a wholeness of both the inner being and outer doing in our lives. It supports us in integrating our innate health and wholeness, individually, communally and collectively as a planetary species.

It calls for a celebration of our inner lives as a doorway that opens us to an evolutionary shift of consciousness and the emergence of an inclusive interspirituality which provides essential practices for our awakening to unitive awareness and recognition and experiential embodiment of our fundamental interbeing; our interdependence and belonging with our global human family, Gaia, and with the entire Universe.

It empowers us to become integral leaders; to envision and give authentic hope to co-create a love-based rather than separation-based future and where regenerative and sustainable development are natural outcomes of a world that works for the good of the whole.

Your work also explicitly invites us to value the complementarity of masculine and feminine attributes. Why do you feel this is vital?

Unitive awareness also honors and respects the complementarity of feminine and masculine attributes, their innate and powerful relatedness and the benefits of including and balancing their perspectives and contributions. Doing so empowers the co-creativity of their synergies within and between us and enables us to achieve outcomes that are ‘greater than the sum of their parts’.

Each of us naturally embodies both; in left-brain analytical and right brain intuitive ways of knowing and in the complementarity of mind-based and heart-based perception – with our hearts having as large a neural network of in-formational connectivity as our brains.

Organizations have generally based themselves on mechanistic perspectives of separation and competition and hierarchical and dominating attributes generally viewed as ‘masculine’ and these have been predominant approaches to maximizing corporate performance.

Often continuing to use mechanistic terms to measure effectiveness, human beings are resources; cogs in the machine. Business plans are blueprints for action, with key performance indicators focused on aligning all parts of their machine to its aims for success; almost completely profit-driven. Unchecked, these perspectives competitively and greedily

have driven over-consumption, environmental desecration, biodiversity depletion and pollution, inequalities, conflicts and epidemic levels of stress and dysfunctional behaviors.

Recently, though, inner personal development in the service of self and co-creative leadership and organizational purpose are coming to the fore, and with them an increasing appreciation of and urgent need to integrate attributes generally viewed as feminine, such as inclusion and cooperation

Such integration stimulates transformational change from the inside out, engendering distributed intelligence throughout organizations and expanding relationships from the individual Me, to the organizational WE and a planetary perspective and stewardship of All. In doing so, it also ushers in a balance of the best and continuing benefits of the past, predominantly masculine, organizational behaviors, with feminine attributes in an emergent synergistic co-creative and evolutionary integration.

You have previously shared, what you refer to as 8 eSSences of self and spiritual leadership. Can you please elaborate on how their complementary attributes can be integrated in leadership practices?

The 8 eSSences are characteristics and behaviors that are natural to such integrated perception and of course able to be embodied by both women and men.

I list them as follows:

- Servant-leader – embodies the sovereignty of serving the good of the whole rather than the sovereignty of controlling the whole
- Soul-model - authentically embodies the highest coherence of the whole rather than role-modelling from an ego-based sense of status
- Seer – perceptive co-creator of the highest purpose and meaning of the organization
- Sensor – sensing what is calling to come through and emerge, and then responding and expressing its purpose rather than imposing control
- Shaper – facilitating the emergent evolutionary ‘shape’ and embodiment of the organization
- Space-holder – enabling inclusivity and belong and individual/collective worth, value and meaning throughout the organization and beyond

And sometimes:

- Stirrer - intervening as, when and how sensed to co-enable progressive and optimal positive change

- Shaker – intervening as when and how sensed to initiate (r)evolutionary change

The emergence of such integral leadership and conscious businesses and organizations, whose unitive world view, values and ethical behaviors is foundational to their purpose and operations, is accelerating around the world. Making integral decisions, guided by intuitive insights, feeling a deep sense of stake-holder community and planetary stewardship, they are authentically exemplifying their purpose-led aims in the DNA of their brands.

Their soul-modelling of transformational action and ways of consciously enacting business, are vital if we are to collectively co-create the future we want for ourselves and our planetary home. And heeding their calls to link up and lift up invites us all to come together in a global movement of hope and love in action and for the good of the whole.

Finally, is there any practice, arising from your own insights, you could share with us that readers can apply right now for developing their evolutionary leadership capacities and for entering more fully into a conscious relationship with the evolutionary process of life?

Each day I aspire to live by the universal values I wrote about earlier and fundamentally to live my life as an embodiment of the golden rule: to treat others and Gaia as I would wish to be treated. In each choice, I seek to choose love – and if I’m undecided I ask myself ‘what would love do’ and choose accordingly.

I mentioned earlier that our Universe is as simple as it can be – but no simpler – to achieve its evolutionary purpose. The simplicity of the golden rule and our personal and collective embodiment of it and as microcosmic co-creators of universal intelligence, offers us a pivotal moment of choice; to remain in the illusion of separation or to wake up to re-member we’re inseparable.

As the unitive narrative text concludes: “To paraphrase philosopher Teilhard de Chardin: Someday, we shall harness the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, humanity will have discovered fire. That someday is here and now. As we wake up to the radical reality of a unitive narrative, we will also discover as a species and perhaps for the first time - who we really and truly are and who we can evolve to become”.